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Letter dated 18 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward the attached press release entitled "Eritrea protests Ethiopian Army attack", dated 18 June 2001, issued by the State of Eritrea Commission for Coordination with the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

(*Signed*) Ahmed Tahir **Baduri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-41747 (E) 190601

Annex to the letter dated 18 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press release

Eritrea protests Ethiopian Army attack

The Government of the State of Eritrea today lodged a strong protest against an attack yesterday morning by the Ethiopian Army on the Eritrean police station at the sixty-fourth kilometre (km) mark along the Assab-Burie Road, well inside the Temporary Security Zone, as per its agreed location.

The strong protest was conveyed through a letter from Commissioner Andebrhan to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Ethiopia and Eritrea, Ambassador Legwaila Joseph Legwaila. In his letter, Ambassador Andebrhan stated that Ethiopian troops had penetrated the Temporary Security Zone in the Eastern Sector and attacked the Eritrean police and militia units stationed at the sixty-fourth km mark along the Assab-Burie road yesterday, 17 June 2001. According to the letter, Ethiopian troops had moved from a position at elevation point 611 (grid reference 965042) towards the sixty-fourth km location and, using light machine guns, attacked the police station at 0530 hours from a range of 300-400 metres. They killed one member of the local militia before being driven back. The protest letter further stated that the attack had been verified by the Eastern Sector Command and Military Liaison Office of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE).

The Government's protest stated that this new Ethiopian attack "occurred deep inside the Temporary Security Zone and constitutes a grave violation of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, represents a dangerous escalation of Ethiopia's acts to turn the Temporary Security Zone into a zone of 'permanent insecurity', and poses a dire threat to the peace process". The letter condemned Ethiopia's provocative act of aggression and called on the "international community, as the guarantor of the agreement, to take appropriate measures to ensure that Ethiopia respects its commitment under the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities".